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'Country must stay united'

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Najib: Concerted effort needed to bring Malaysians home from N. Korea

KUALA LUMPUR: All Malaysians, including government and opposition leaders, are urged to fully support efforts to bring Malaysian citizens home from North Korea.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the strength of a country could be measured by looking at the people's solidarity when facing a crisis or external threat.

"If we stay united, our foreign enemies will not be able to destroy all that we have built," the Prime Minister said in his latest blog entry at najibrazak.com.

Najib said this was not the first time Malaysia had a diplomatic spat.

Crises such as the disappearance

of MH370, the downing of MH17 and the Lahad Datu intrusion proved that Malaysia had extensive experience in handling complicated issues related to foreign powers, he said.

"*Insyallah*, we will again be guided by All-Mighty Allah to bring our fellow citizens home safely from North Korea and solve all the questions concerning the assassination (of the North Korean man) in our country," he added.

Najib said Malaysia has always maintained a good relationship with other countries.

"However, this does not mean that anybody can exploit Malaysian hospitality, and break the laws in

our country at their whims and fancy and in total disregard of Malaysia as a sovereign country," he said.

Nine Malaysians, including three officers from the Malaysian Embassy in Pyongyang, are currently stranded there after the North Korean government banned all Malaysian citizens from leaving the republic.

Two other Malaysians – Stella Lim and Nyanaprakash Muniandy – who participated in the World Food Programme of the United Nations were allowed to leave Pyongyang and are currently in Beijing, China.

The diplomatic spat between Malaysia and North Korea began

with the assassination of Kim Jong-nam, the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un at KLIA2 on Feb 13.

The ban preventing all Malaysian citizens from leaving the republic came about after Malaysia declared North Korean ambassador Kang Chol *persona non grata*, leading to his expulsion from the country, following the ambassador's continued criticism of Malaysian authorities investigating the murder of Jong-nam. — Bernama

Watch the video
thestartv.com

